

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ABF-01 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-04

PER-05 NSC-05 OMB-01 /049 W

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R 191937Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NASSAU 1255

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP CGEN

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL OFFICER POSITION FOR CONSULAR SECTION

REF: (A) KRIEGER/TAYLOR TELCON OF 8/17/77 (B) NASSAU 1254

1. POST BELIEVES THAT FAILURE TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL STAFF IN MAY CONSULAR PACKET WAS UNREALISTICALLY OPTOMISTIC AND THAT CONSULAR SECTION IS INADEQUATELY STAFFED TO MEET CURRENT WORKLOAD IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S AND PUBLIC'S LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS.

2. WE HAD INTENDED DISCUSSING OFFICER STAFFING, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, WITH THE CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TEAM CONSULTANT AT THE PORT OF SPAIN CONSULAR CONFERENCE, AND WILL STILL PLAN TO DO SO.

3. WITH REGARD TO FIGURES SUBMITTED IN CONSULAR PACKET, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1976 TO JULY 31, 1977 POST HAS HANDLED SOME 26,688 NIV CASES AND 731 IV'S. THUS, WITH EVEN THE MOST CONSERVATIVE PROJECTIONS FOR THE REMAINING TWO MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR, WE COULD WELL EXCEED AND WILL CERTAINLY MEET THE FIGURES ESTIMATED IN THE MAY SUBMISSION.

4. BECAUSE BAHAMIANS DO NOT RPT NOT TRUST THE POSTAL
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SYSTEM (WITH GOOD REASON) AND BECAUSE A FAIR NUMBER OF OUT APPLICANTS ARE THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, NEARLY ALL OF OUR NIV APPLICATIONS ARE HANDLED ON A WALK IN BASIS. SINCE THE BAHAMAS, AT THE CURRENT TIME, IS SUFFERING FROM BOTH A HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND A INCREASING CRIME RATE, AND GIVEN FACT THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF OUR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS ARE FROM SURROUNDING AREAS NOTED FOR

A HIGH INCIDENCE OF FRAUD, THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR NIV APPLICANTS REQUIRE PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, OFTEN TIMES EXTENSIVE.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING WORK-LOAD, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THIS POST RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A SERIOUS INCIDENT OF MALFEASANCE AMONG CERTAIN LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE VISA UNIT. (THESE EMPLOYEES HAVE SINCE BEEN DISMISSED). THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS WHICH ALLOWED THIS MALFEASANCE TO DEVELOP WAS LACK OF CONTINUING DIRECT SUPERVISION BY CONSULAR OFFICERS. WHILE NOT IMPLYING THAT ANY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE POST AT THAT TIME WAS NEGLIGENT OR REMISS IN HIS DUTIES IT DOES SUPPORT A CONTENTION THAT CONDITIONS OF UNDERSTAFFING HAVE EXISTED IN THE CONSULAR SECTION FOR SOMETIME AND THAT RESPONSIBLE CONSULAR OFFICERS IN THE VISA UNIT FAILED TO EXERCISE PROPER SUPERVISION OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES DUE TO OVER-WORK.

6. SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE MALFEASANCE, THE POST, WITH THE COOPERATION OF A/SY HAS UNDERTAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO INHIBIT IMPROPRIETY IN THE VISA UNIT. THESE MEASURES, WHILE EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY NECESSARY ARE SUFFICIENTLY TIME CONSUMING TO ADD APPRECIABLY TO WORK LOAD. MOREOVER, ALL CONSULAR UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICERS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF, AND ON GUARD AGAINST, POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND PROPER SUPERVISION IS NOW BEING EXERCISED.

7. FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, THE NON-IMMIGRANT VISA FUNCTION, FOR MOST OF THE YEARS REQUIRES THE FULL-TIME ATTENTION OF TWO OFFICERS. IN FACT, DURING PAST MONTHS, WE HAVE OFTEN NEEDED THREE OFFICERS "ONE LINE" TO MEET DEMANDS AND KEEP WORK AND PEOPLE FLOWING. AT THE SAME TIME, IMMIGRANT VISA WORK LOAD IS INCREASING AS PROJECTED IN THE MAY CONSULAR PACKET. DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1976 TO JULY 31, 1977, THE POST ISSUED 731 IV'S. AT OUR CURRENT RATE OF ISSUANCE OF BETWEEN 90 AND 100 IV'S A MONTH, WE WILL EITHER MEET OR EXCEED BY ABOUT 15 PERCENT THE 950 ISSUANCES ANTICIPATED. IMMIGRANT VASAS REQUIRE ALMOST THE FULL-TIME ATTENTION OF ONE OFFICER NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF VOLUME BUT BECAUSE OF THE CHARACTER OF THE WORK. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR IV'S AT THIS POST ARE THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS WHO CAN ESTABLISH THAT, LEGALLY OR ILLEGALLY, THEY HAD A RESIDENCE IN THE BAHAMAS PRIOR TO ENTERING THE UNITED STATES. SINCD MANY OF THESE

APPLICANTS ARE FROM HIGH FRAUD AREAS, THEY REQUIRE MORE TIME TO PROCESS THAN THE AVERAGE CASE. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION IS DEVOTING A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF HIS TIME TO IMMIGRANT VISAS, WHICH ALLOWS HIM LESS TIME THAN HE NEEDS TO PROVIDE THE SUPERVISION AND LEADERSHIP THE SECTION REQUIRES.

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ABF-01 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-04
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8. SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZEN REQUIRE MORE THAN THE FULL-TIME ATTENTION OF THE OFFICER ASSIGNED IF WE ARE TO MEET THE CURRENT LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN NUMEROUS DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS. THE POST HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO ARGUMENT WITH THESE EXPECTATIONS AND IS DEVOTED TO PROVIDING THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS. BUT AGAIN, OUR PROJECTED FIGURES FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AS EXPRESSED IN THE CONSULAR PACKET, HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE. AS AN EXAMPLE, WE PROJECTED A TOTAL OF 250 ARRESTS FOR FISCAL 77. IN THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 1976 TO DATE WE HAVE HANDLED 253 ARREST CASES, OF VARYING COMPLEXITY, AND WE STILL HAVE SIX WEEKS OF THE FISCAL YEAR LEFT. MOREOVER, THE VERY NATURE OF THE CONSULAR DISTRICT WITH A HIGH YEAR-ROUND VOLUME OF AMERICAN TOURISTS, A FAIR NUMBER OF AMERICAN YACHTS CRUISING AND GETTING INTO DIFFICULTIES IN BAHAMIAN WATERS PLUS A LARGE RESIDENT AMERICAN POPULATION GIVES US A HEAVY WORK LOAD. MOREOVER, MANY CASES ARE EXTREMELY TIME CONSUMING. GIVEN THE FAR FLUNG NATURE OF THE DISTRICT THE CITIZEN SERVICES OFFICER COULD SPEND MORE TIME AWAY FROM THE OFFICE ON CASES THAN IS NOW POSSIBLE. AT PRESENT, OUR SERVICES ARRESTEES AND PRISONERS IS ADEQUATE, WITHIN CURRENT GUIDE LINES, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

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9. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE POST URGENTLY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL JUNIOR OFFICER POSITION FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION AND THE EARLY ASSIGNMENT OF AN OFFICER THERETO. WHILE THE SLOT WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS A VISA SLOT, ANY SLACK TIME COULD WELL BE USED IN SUPPORTING THE CITIZEN SERVICES OFFICER. IF APPROVED THE CONSULAR SECTION WOULD BE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- A) 1 FSO-3 CHIEF OF SECTION
- (B) 1 FSO-6 CITIZEN SERVICES OFFICER
- (C) 1 FSO-6 VISA OFFICER
- (D) 2 FSO-7 VISA OFFICERS

10. POST REPRESENTATIVE WILL LEAVE TO HIS CONSULTATION WITH CAT REPRESENTATIVE AT PORT OF SPAIN, SUCH MATTERS AS LOCAL STAFFING, SPACE UTILIZATION AND INCLUSION OF THE POST IN THE AUTOMATED VISA LOOKOUT SYSTEM.
TAYLOR

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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SAS ID: 1549470
Secure: OPEN
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